Invitation to untrained graduates and post-graduates for higher studies in Agriculture

1554. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Agricultural Research Institute has invited graduates and post-graduates who are not trained in agriculture science to take up Masters and even Ph. D studies in agriculture sciences at the institute during 1994-95; and

(b) what are the details of the policies and objectives of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) had invited applications for admission to Masters and Doctoral studies in Agriculture and allied sciences for 1994-95 session in which non-agricultural graduates were also eligible for admission in certain disciplines.

(b) IARI is a premier Institution engaged in research and higher education in agriculture and allied disciplines and enjoys the status of a "Deemed University" under Section 3 of UGC Act. The academic Council of the Instt. is empowered to prescribe qualifications for the education programmes.

Steps to increase agricultural production

1555. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are proposed to increase agricultural production above 3 per cent in 1995-96;

(b) the efforts likely to be made to increase foodgrain production beyond the present rate of increase of 2 per cent; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to increase agricultural production beyond 3 per cent per annum in 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) In order to increase agricultural production including foodgrains, the Government of India is implementing number of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the potential areas of the country with the objective to increase productivity.

Through these schemes, emphasis is being given for the propagation of improved technologies through demonstration and training and propagation and use of improved varieties of crops, implements, soil ameliorants, organics etc.

Marketing of Horticultural Crops

1556. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will intensify marketing efforts of horticultural crops;

(b) what are the present efforts in marketing of these products from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that less emphasis has been given to publicise and market the fruits from Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether Government will strengthen infra-structure facilities and propagate post harvest technology for horticulture sector; and

(e) the funds earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The National Horticulture Board is implementing a scheme on Marketing Information Service of Fruits and Vegetables under which the marketing information centres in Andhra Pradesh have been established one at Hyderabad,